

Message Text

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TAGS: PEPR, IR, AF
SUBJ: COMMENTARY ON GOI RECOGNITION OF AFGHAN GOVT

1. LOCAL PRESS MAY 7 CARRIED BRIEF LOW-KEY FRONT PAGE ARTICLES COVERING MFA SPOKESMAN'S MAY 6 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IRAN "AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOA INFORMED THAT GOVERNMENT THAT PAST RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE". GOI AMBASSADOR DAVOUDI, ON LEAVE IN TEHRAN, WILL LEAVE SOON FOR KABUL.

2. TEHRAN JOURNAL PRINTED EDITORIAL MAY 7 ENTITLED "RECOGNITION", EXCERPTS OF WHICH APPEAR BELOW:

3. "IT IS CERTAINLY NO SURPRISE. IRANIAN RECOGNITION OF AFGHANISTAN WAS EXPECTED. THE FACT IS THAT AFGHANISTAN IS THERE--A NEIGHBOR JUST ACROSS THE EASTERN BORDER. AS ONE LADING DIPLOMAT IN THIS COUNTRY PUT IT, 'WE CANNOT CHOOSE THE REGIMES OF OUR NEIGHBORS, BUT WE HAVE TO LIVE WITH THEM.'"

4. "SUCH OTHER NATIONS AT THE USSR, INDIA, VIETNAM, CUBA, TURKEY, PAKISTAN, MONGOLIA AND EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES WERE QUICK TO RECOGNIZE THE RULING REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. IRAN
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REMAINED QUIET A LITTLE LONGER, AWAITING SOME CONCRETE POLICY STATEMENT FROM KABUL AND ALLOWING THE DUST TO SETTLE AFTER THE BLOODY COUP. AND FRIDAY BROUGHT A STRONG DENIAL FROM TARAKI THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IS A PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST REGIME."

5. "BUT THE KEY REASON FOR IRANIAN RECOGNITION IS SURELY

THAT SUCH A STEP FOLLOWS NATURALLY FROM IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY. THIS NATION HAS CONSISTENTLY ARGUED THAT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MUST BE BASED ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS AND RECOGNITION OF THEIR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. HIGH IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT IRAN SEEKS FRIENDLY AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR FORMS OF GOVERNMENT, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT VIOLATE OTHER NATIONS' RIGHTS TO SELF-RULE. ALLY THIS TO THE LONG-STANDING HISTORICAL TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN, THE LINKS BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIZENS WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF ISLAM AND THE PROMINENT ROLE IRAN CONTINUES TO PLAY IN FOSTERING REGIONAL HARMONY AND COOPERATION."

5. "AMID WESTERN NEWS MEDIA REPORTS OF COMMUNIST OR PRO-MOSCOW INFLUENCE ON THE NEW KABUL REGIME, THERE IS A CLEAR NEED TO WAIT AND SEE RATHER THAN ASSESS THE TRUE COLORS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TOO SOON. TIME ALONE WILL REVEAL THE DIFFERENCES, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES OF DAOUD AND THOSE OF TARAKI. BUT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, IRAN WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TIES WITH THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN, WHO REMAIN, HOWEVER THEY ARE RULED, OUR NIGHBORS."
SULLIVAN

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